(b) if so, the sector-wise details in this regard and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government have fixed any targets for these sectors; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to boost growth in agriculture?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) to (d) As per the Quick Estimates of National Income released by the Central Statistical Organisation, growth in the gross domestic product (GDP) at factor cost at constant (1993-94) prices in 2000-01 originating in agriculture, forestry and fishing posted a decline of 0.2 per cent. Within agriculture, forestry and fishing agriculture component showed a decline of 0.4 per cent. The negative growth of 0.4 per cent in the GDP of agriculture component during the year 2000-01, has mainly been on account of decline in production of rice by 5.4 per cent, wheat by 10.0 per cent, pulses by 20.4 per cent, oilseeds by 11.2 per cent and cotton by 16.3 per cent as compared with the previous year. The growth in the GDP originating in financing, insurance, real estate and business services was 2.9 per cent. Within this sector, banking & insurance component showed a fall of 2.2 per cent. The negative growth of 2.2 per cent in banking and insurance sector during 2000-01 has mainly been on account of decline in the output of the non-banking financial institutions. Growth rate targets are not fixed annually. The Budget for 2002-03 contains a number of measures to promote growth in agriculture. These, *inter-alia*, include further decontrol and deregulation of agriculture, number of measures to step up agricultural credit through institutional channels, enhanced allocation for the Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme and agriculture research and extension in particular. Besides, the Budget also lays emphasis on rural infrastructure by providing higher allocation for rural roads and a new interest subsidy scheme called Accelerated Rural Electrification Programme to promote rural electrification. These measures are expected to have a favourable impact on the agricultural sector.

Financial norms for power projects

5009. SHRI C.P. THIRUNAVUKKARASU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have identified firming up of easier financing norms for power sector in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have redefined the guidelines for group lending to power projects;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the other measures taken for providing adequate financial help to power sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) In 1992, the Government of India announced the policy for inviting private participation in power generation. As a part of the liberal policy, Government allowed a maximum debt equity ratio of 4:1 and minimum promoters contribution of 11%. The policy also allowed *inter-alia* 100% FDI and full repatriation of dividends. There has been no major change in the policy announced by the Government in this regard.

(c) and (d) RBI has stipulated companies/group exposure norms for infrastructural/other projects. These envisage exposure upto 25% of the net worth to single company and 50% of the net worth to a group. This has been relaxed to 60% if the incremental 10% is for infrastructure area.

(e) In view of the direct and indirect benefits accruing to the units in small scale sector, it has been decided that, in addition to the present operations, SIDBI would also, on consortium basis with other financial sector participants such as IDBI, IDFC, ICICI, IL&FS, SBI, PNB and other major banks participate in funding of infrastructure projects from sectors such as power, roads, urban infrastructure, ports, telecom etc. which would benefit the SSI sector.

Bicycle sector under excise net

5010. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMED KHAN (DURRU): Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received representations from cycle and cycle accessories manufacturers, mostly small scale manufacturers, through Members of Parliament and otherwise about the imminent closure of large number of such units with imposition of fresh excise duty under the current year's Central Budget;

(b) if so, whether bicycle sector has all along been exempted from excise duties, being a poor man's vehicle; and

(c) the reasons for bringing the bicycle sector under excise net?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) The Government have received representations from cycle and cycle parts and accessories manufacturers through